

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph under the “Detailed Description of the Invention” on page 3 through the second full paragraph on page 5 with the following:

The invention involves a motor mounting platform 10 for use in a small appliance such as a vacuum cleaner. As shown in FIGURES 1, 3, 5 and 6, the motor mounting platform 10 is constructed of a first material and comprised of at least two brush holders 20, constructed of a second material, removably engaged to the platform 10. ~~In one embodiment of the invention, the~~ The second material is electrically non-conductive. ~~In addition, the first material has~~ could have a lower thermal classification than the second material. For example, the first material, the material used to manufacture the mounting platform, may have a thermal classification as low as Underwriters Laboratories’ UL-94-HB.

~~In another embodiment of the invention, the~~ The platform 10 includes at least one motor support 16 mounted to the platform 10, at least two pair of brush holder guides 18 mounted directly to the platform 10 and at least two brush holders 20 constructed of electrically non-conductive material, removably engaged to the platform 10 within the brush holder guides 18, whereby all electrical carrying components are displaced from the mounting platform 10.

~~In one embodiment of the invention, the~~ The motor mounting platform 10 has a first side 12 and a second side 20, ~~and the~~ The second side 20 includes a cavity 22 surrounded by ~~an edge a~~ wall 24. ~~In such an embodiment, the mounting platform 10 also includes at least one~~ The motor support 16 and ~~at least two pair of~~ the brush holder guides 18 are mounted on the first side 12. ~~In a specific version of this embodiment, the cavity~~ Cavity 22 has an involute shape, as shown in FIGURE 4.

~~In another embodiment of the invention, the~~ The motor support 16 includes a first post 26 and a second post 28. These first and second posts 26, 28 may be mounted opposite of each other around a hole 14 extending through the platform 10.

When in use, as shown in FIGURES 5 and 6, a motor 30 is attached to the first and second posts 26, 28 in such a manner that the attachment points 32 of the motor 30 to the support posts 26, 28 are displaced from the surface 12 of the mounting platform 10. This means, for example, that the motor 30 could be mounted on the tops of the first and second posts 26, 28. Such an attachment allows the mounting platform 10 to be free of any direct electrical contact with any components carrying electrical current. ~~In a specific version of the embodiment, a~~ ~~motor~~ Motor 30 is attached to the at least one motor support 16 in such a manner that the mounting platform 10 is free of any direct contact with any electrical carrying components.

The inventive motor mounting platform 10 may also include an exhaust outlet 34 that extends from the mounting platform 10. This exhaust outlet 34 may be integrally molded with the mounting platform 10.

~~In yet another embodiment, the~~ The pairs of brush holder guides 18 are mounted on opposite sides of the hole 14 extending through the platform 10. As shown in FIGURE 2, the guides 18 may be comprised of a pair of inverted L-shaped guides, with each guide 18 opposing the other so as to form a slot 36 between them. A stop bar 38, as shown in FIGURE 7, capable of engaging a brush holder 20 is also mounted on the platform 10 between each guide slot 36 and the hole 14.

Please replace the fourth full paragraph on page 7 with the following:

~~In still another the embodiment of the invention, wire~~ Wire guides 81 may be connected to the platform 10. These guides hold and retain in position the insulated electrical wires 80 running from the motor 30.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 8 with the following:

~~In a particular~~ an embodiment of the invention, the commutating brush 64 is made of carbon.

Please replace the three full paragraphs on page 9 with the following:

~~In one embodiment of the invention, the~~ The method further comprises the steps of: (1) connecting a first end 90 of a lead wire 68 to a terminal lead 72; (2) encircling the lead wire 68 with a spring 74; (3) securing a second end 92 of the lead wire 68 to an end of the commutating brush 64; (4) placing the commutating brush 64 within the opening 42 at the first end 64 of the commutator brush holder 20 such that the lead wire 68 is aligned within the first slot 50; (5) sliding the lead wire 68 along the length of the first slot 50; and (6) securing the terminal lead 72 to the brush holder 20. ~~In a specific version of this embodiment~~ addition, a second slot 52 is provided in the top side 48, the second slot 52 being in communication with the opening 42 and perpendicular to the first slot 50 and the terminal lead 72 is secured within the second slot 52.

~~In still another embodiment, the~~ The inventive steps of the method could further comprise the step of sliding the lead wire 68 along the length of the first slot 50 until reaching the second slot 52, where. ~~In a specific version of this embodiment~~, the second slot 52 is adjacent to the second end 46 of the brush holder 20.

While the principles of the invention have been shown and described in connection with ~~but a few embodiments~~ various embodiments, it is understood clearly that such embodiments are by way of example and are not limiting.